THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 27

"Thomas, Percy and the Coal"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

It was a beautiful morning on the Island of Sodor.

Thomas the Tank Engine's blue paint sparked in the sunshine as he puffed happily along his branch line with Annie and Clarabel.

He was feeling very pleased with himself.

"Hullo, Thomas," whistled Percy, "you look splendid!"

"Yes indeed," boasted Thomas. "Blue is the only proper colour for an engine."

"Oh, I don't know, I like my brown paint," said Toby.

"I've always been green. I wouldn't want to be any other colour either," added Percy.

"Well, well, anyway," huffed Thomas, "blue is the only colour for a Really Useful Engine - everyone knows that."

Percy said no more. He just grinned at Toby.

Later Thomas was resting when Percy arrived.

A large hopper was loading his trucks full of coal.

Thomas was still being cheeky.

"Careful," he warned.

"Watch out with those silly trucks."

"Go-on. Go-on. Go-on" muttered the trucks.

"And by the way," went on Thomas, "those buffers don't look very safe to me."

The last load poured down.

"Help, I'm choking!" cried Thomas.

"Get me out!"

Percy was worried, but he couldn't help laughing.

Thomas' smart blue paint was covered in coal dust from smoke box to bunker.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Ha Ha!" chuckled Percy. "You don't look Really Useful now Thomas. "You look really disgraceful."

"I'm not disgraceful," choked Thomas. "You did that on purpose. Get me out!"

It took so long to clean Thomas that he wasn't in time for his next train.

Toby had to take Annie and Clarabel.

"Poor Thomas," whispered Annie to Clarabel. They were most upset.

Thomas was grumpy in the shed that night.

Toby thought it a great joke, but Percy was cross with Thomas for thinking he had made his paint dirty on purpose.

"Fancy a Really Useful Blue Engine like Thomas becoming a disgrace to the Fat Controller's Railway."

Next day Thomas was feeling more cheerful as he watched Percy bring his trucks from the junction.

The trucks were heavy and Percy was tired.

"Have a drink," said his Driver, "then you'll feel better."

The water column stood at the end of the siding with the unsafe buffers.

Suddenly Percy found that he couldn't stop.

The buffers didn't stop him either.

"Ooer," wailed Percy. "Help!"

The buffers were broken and Percy was wheel deep in coal.

It was time for Thomas to leave, he had seen everything.

"Now Percy has learnt his lesson too," he chuckled to himself.

That night the two engines made up their quarrel.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"I didn't cause your accident on purpose Thomas," whispered Percy. "You do know that, don't you?"

"Of course," replied Thomas. "And I'm sorry I was cheeky."

"Your green paint looks splendid again too."

"In future we'll both be more careful of coal."

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 28

"Cows"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Edward was getting old. His bearings were worn and he clanked as he puffed along. He was taking empty cattle trucks to a market town.

The sun shone, birds sang, but Edward was heading for trouble.

"Come on. Come on," he puffed.

"Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh!" screamed the trucks.

Edward puffed and clanked, the trucks rattled and screamed.

Some cows were grazing nearby - they were not used to trains; the noise and smoke disturbed them.

As Edward clanked by, they broke through the fence and ran across the line.

A coupling was broken, and some trucks were left behind.

Edward felt a jerk but didn't take much notice.

He was used to trucks.

"Bother those trucks," he thought, "why can't they come quietly." He was at the next station before either he or his Driver realised what had happened.

When Gordon and Henry heard about the accident, they laughed and boasted. "Fancy allowing cows to break his train. They wouldn't dare do that to us. We'd show them!"

Toby was cross.

"You couldn't help it Edward. They've never met cows. I have, and I know the trouble they are."

Some days later Gordon rushed through Edward's station.

"Poop poop! - mind the cows!"

"Hurry, hurry, hurry," puffed Gordon.

"Don't make such a fuss. Don't make such a fuss," grumbled his coaches.

A long stretch of line lay ahead. In the distance was a bridge.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

It seemed to Gordon that there was something on the bridge. His Driver thought so too.

"Whoa, Gordon!" he said and shut off steam.

"Pooh!" said Gordon, "it's only a cow!"

"SHOOH! SHOOH!"

He moved slowly on to the bridge but the cow wouldn't 'Shooh'. She had lost her calf and felt lonely.

"Mooh!" she said sadly.

Everyone tried to send her away, but she wouldn't go.

Henry arrived.

"What's this - a cow - I'll soon settle her. Be off! Be off!"

"Mooh!" said the cow

Henry backed away nervously.

"I don't want to hurt her."

At the next station, Henry's Guard told them about the cow and warned the signalman that the line was blocked.

"That must be Bluebell," said the Porter. "Her calf is here - ready to go to market. Percy will take it along."

At the bridge Bluebell was very pleased to see her calf again, and the Porter led them away.

"Not a word."

"Keep it dark," whispered Gordon and Henry to each other. They felt rather silly.

But the story soon spread.

"Well, well, well," chuckled Edward, "two big engines afraid of a cow!"

"Afraid - Rubbish!" said Gordon. "We didn't want the poor thing to hurt herself by running up against us. We stopped so as not to excite her. You see what I mean, my dear Edward."

"Yes Gordon," said Edward.

Gordon felt somehow that Edward saw only too well.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 29

"Bertie's Chase"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

One morning Edward was waiting to pick up passengers from Thomas' train.

"Peep! peep!, we're late. Where is Thomas? He doesn't usually make us wait."

"Oh dear what can the matter be?..." sang the Fireman "... Johnnie's so long at...."

"Never you mind about Johnnie," laughed the Driver, "just you climb on the cab and look for Thomas."

"Can you see him?"

"No," replied the Fireman. "There's Bertie bus in a tearing hurry. No need to bother with him though. Likely he's on a Coach Tour or something."

He clambered down.

"Toot, toot, stop, stop! I've got Thomas' passengers wailed Bertie roaring up to the gates. It was no good. Edward was gone.

"Bother," said Bertie. "Bother Thomas' Fireman not coming to work today. Why did I promise to help the passengers catch the train?"

"That will do, Bertie," said his Driver. "A promise is a promise, and we must keep it."

"I'll catch Edward or bust," said Bertie.

"Oh my gears and axles," he groaned toiling up the hill. "I'll never be the same bus again."

"Hurray! Hurray! I see him," cheered Bertie as he reached the top.

"Oh No! Edward's at the station."

"No....he's stopped at a crossing - Hurray! Hurray!" Bertie tore down the hill.

"Well done Bertie!" shouted his passengers. "Go it!"

Bertie skidded into the yard.

"Wait! Wait!" cried Bertie

He was just in time to see Edward puff away.

"I'm sorry," said Bertie.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Never mind," said the passengers. "After him, quickly - 3rd time lucky you know."

"Do you think we'll catch him at the next station Driver?"

"There's a good chance," replied the Driver. "Our road keeps close to the line and we can climb hills better than Edward. I'll just make sure."

He spoke to the stationmaster - Bertie and the passengers waited impatiently.

"Yes, we'll do it this time," said the Driver.

"Hurray," called the passengers as Bertie chased after Edward once more.

"This hill is too steep! This hill is too steep!" grumbled the coaches as Edward snorted in front.

They reached the top at last and ran smoothly into the station.

"Pppe-eep!" whistled Edward, "get in quickly please."

The Guard blew the whistle and Edward's Driver looked back; but the flag didn't wave.

Then he heard Bertie. (Tooting)

Everything seemed to happen at once - and the stationmaster told the Guard and Driver what had happened.

"I'm sorry about the chase Bertie," said Edward.

"My fault," replied Bertie. "Late at Junction.... you didn't know ... about Thomas' passengers.

"Peep peep. Goodbye Bertie, we're off," whistled Edward.

"Three cheers for Bertie!" called the passengers.

Bertie raced back to tell Thomas that all was well.

"Thank you, Bertie," said Thomas, "you're a very good friend indeed."

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 30

"Saved from Scrap"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

The Fat Controller works his engines hard. But they are very proud when he calls them Really Useful.

"I'm going to the Scrapyard today," Edward called to Thomas.

"What, already? You're not that old!" replied Thomas cheekily.

Thomas was only teasing.

The scrapyard is full of rusty old cars and machinery. They are broken into pieces, loaded into trucks and Edward pulls them to the steel works where they are melted down and used again.

Today there was a surprise waiting for Edward in the yard.

It was a traction engine.

"Hullo," said Edward, "You're not broken and rusty, what are you doing here?"

"I'm Trevor - they're going to break me up next week."

"What a shame," said Edward.

"My driver says I only need some paint, polish and oil to be as good as new - but my Master says I'm old fashioned.

Edward snorted. "People say I'm old fashioned, but I don't care. The Fat Controller says I'm a Useful Engine.

What work did you do?"

My master would send us from farm to farm.

We threshed corn, hauled logs and did lots of other work. The children loved to see us.

Trevor shut his eyes - remembering -.

"Oh yes, I like children."

Edward set off for the station.

"Broken up - what a shame. Broken up - what a shame. I must help Trevor, I must."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

He thought of all his friends who liked engines, but strangely none of them would have room for a Traction Engine at home!

"It's a shame. It's a shame," he hissed.

Then - "Peep peep! Why didn't I think of him before?"

There on the platform was the very person.

"Hullo Edward, you look upset.

"What's the matter, Charlie?" he asked the Driver.

"There's a Traction Engine in the scrapyard Vicar, he'll be broken up next week. Jem Cole says he never drove a better engine."

"Do save him, Sir."

He saws wood and gives children rides."

"We'll see," replied the Vicar.

Jem Cole came on Saturday. "The Reverend is coming to see you Trevor, maybe he'll buy you."

"Do you think he will?" asked Trevor hopefully.

"He will when I've lit your fire and cleaned you up."

The vicar and his two boys arrived that evening. Trevor hadn't felt so happy for months. He chuffered about the yard.

"Show your paces, Trevor," said the Vicar.

Later he came out of the office smiling. "I've got him cheap, Jem, cheap."

"Do you hear that Trevor," cried Jem, the Reverend's saved you and you'll live at the Vicarage now."

"Peep, peep!" whistled Trevor.

Now Trevor's home is in the Vicarage Orchard and he sees Edward every day.

His paint is spotless and his brass shines like gold.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Trevor likes his work, but his happiest day is the Church Fete.

With a wooden seat bolted to his bunker, he chuffers round the Orchard giving rides to children.

Long afterwards, you will see him shut his eyes - remembering.

"I like children," he whispers happily.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 31

"Old Iron"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

One day James had to wait at the station till Edward and his train came in. This made him cross.

"Late again!"

Edward laughed and James fumed away.

After James had finished his work he went back to the yard - and puffed onto the turntable.

He was still feeling very bad tempered.

"Edward is impossible," he grumbled to the others. "He clanks about like a lot of old iron and he is so slow he makes us wait!"

Thomas and Percy were indignant.

"Old Iron? Slow? Why Edward could beat you in a race any day!"

Really, " said James, "I should like to see him do it!"

Next morning James' driver was suddenly taken ill.

He could hardly stand - so the Fireman uncoupled James ready for shunting.

James was impatient.

Suddenly the signalman shouted.

There was James puffing away down the line.

"All traffic halted," he announced at last.

Then he told the Fireman what had happened.

"Two boys were on James' footplate fiddling with the controls."

"Phew"

They tumbled off and ran when James started.

(SFX Telephone)

The signalman answered the telephone.

"Yes... he's here ... Right. I'll tell him".

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"The Inspector's coming at once. He wants a shunter's pole and a coil of wire rope."
"What for?" wondered the Fireman.

"Search me! But you'd better get them quickly."

The Fireman was ready when Edward arrived. The Inspector saw the pole and the rope.

"Good man, jump in."

"We'll catch him, we'll catch him," puffed Edward.

James was laughing.

"What a lark! What a lark!" he chuckled to himself.....

Suddenly he was going faster and faster .... he realised that he had no Driver.

"What shall I do? I can't stop! Help" Help!"

"We're coming. We're coming," called Edward.

Edward was panting up behind with every ounce of steam he had. At last he caught up with James.

"Steady Edward!" called his Driver.

The Inspector stood on Edward's front holding a noose of rope in the crook of the shunter's pole.

He was trying to slip it over James' buffer.

The engines swayed and lurched.

At last - "Got him!" he shouted. He pulled the noose tight.

Gently braking. Edward's Driver checked the engine's speed and James' Fireman scrambled across and took control.

"So the 'old iron' caught you after all," chuckled Edward.

I'm sorry," whispered James. "Thank you for saving me."

"You were splendid Edward."

"That's all right," replied Edward.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

The engines arrived at the station side by side.

The Fat Controller was waiting.

"A fine piece of work," he said.

"James, you can rest and then take your train. I'm proud of you Edward, you shall go to the works and have your worn parts mended."

"Oh thank you Sir," said Edward.

"It'll be lovely not to clank."

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 32

"Thomas and Trevor"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Trevor the Traction Engine enjoyed living in the Vicarage Orchard. Edward came to see him every day, but sometimes Trevor didn't have enough work to do.

"I do like to keep busy all the time," he sighed one day, "and I do like company, especially children's company."

"Cheer up," smiled Edward. "The Fat Controller has work for you at his new harbour - I'm to take you to meet Thomas today."

"Oh!" exclaimed Trevor happily. " A Harbour, the seaside, children, that will be lovely."

Thomas was on his way to the harbour with a trainload of metal pilings. They were needed to make the Harbour wall firm and safe.

"Hello Thomas," said Edward. "This is Trevor, a friend of mine. He's a Traction Engine."

Thomas eyed the newcomer doubtfully.

"A what engine?" he asked.

"A Traction Engine," explained Trevor. "I run on roads instead of rails. Can you take me to the Harbour please? The Fat Controller has a job for me."

"Yes - of course," replied Thomas. But he was still puzzled.

Workmen coupled Trevor's truck to Thomas' train and soon they were ready to start their journey.

"I'm glad the Fat Controller needs me," called Trevor. "I don't have enough to do sometimes you know, although I can work anywhere - in orchards, on farms, in scrapyards, even at harbours."

"But you don't run on rails," puffed Thomas.

"I'm A Traction Engine - I don't need rails to be useful," replied Trevor. "You wait and see."

When they reached the Harbour they found everything in confusion.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Trucks had been derailed, blocking the line and stone slabs lay everywhere.

"We must get these pilings past," said Thomas' Driver. "They are essential."

"Trevor we need you to drag them round this mess."

"Just the sort of job I like," replied Trevor. "Now you'll see Thomas - I'll soon show you what Traction Engines can do."

Trevor was as good as his word.

He dragged the pilings clear with chains and towed them into position.

"Who needs rails," he muttered cheerfully to himself.

Later Thomas brought Annie and Clarabel to visit him. Thomas was most impressed.

"Now I understand how useful a Traction Engine can be."

The coaches were full of children. Trevor gave them rides along the harbour, he liked this best of all.

"He's very kind," said Annie. "He reminds me of Thomas," added Clarabel.

Everyone was sorry when it was time for Trevor to go. Thomas pulled him to the junction.

A small tear came into Trevor's eye

Thomas pretended not to see. He whistled gaily to make Trevor happy.

I'll come and see you if I can," he promised. "The Vicar will look after you and there's plenty of work for you now at the Orchard, but we may need you again at the Harbour some day."

"That would be wonderful," said Trevor.

That evening, Trevor stood remembering his new friend Thomas, the Harbour and most of all the children. Then he went happily to sleep in the shed at the bottom of the Orchard.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 33

"Percy and the Signal"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Percy works in the Yard at the Big Station. He loves playing jokes, but they can get him into trouble.

One morning he was very cheeky indeed.

"Peep peep! Hurry up Gordon! the Train's ready."

Gordon thought he was late.

"Ha ha ha!" laughed Percy, and showed him a train of dirty coal trucks.

Gordon thought how to pay Percy out.

Next it was James' turn.

"Stay in the shed today James, the Fat Controller will come and see you."

"Ah!" thought James, "the Fat Controller knows I'm a fine engine, he wants me to pull a Special Train."

James' Driver and Fireman could not make him move.

The other engines grumbled dreadfully. They had to do James' work as well as their own.

At last the Inspector arrived. "Show a wheel, James, you can't stay here all day."

"The Fat Controller told me to stay here, he sent a message this morning."

"He did not, how could he? He's away for a week."

"Oh!" said James. "Oh! Where's Percy?" Percy had wisely disappeared!

When the Fat Controller came back, he did see James, and Percy too. Both engines wished he hadn't.

One morning Percy was careless.

"I say, you engines, I'm to take some trucks to Thomas' junction. The Fat Controller chose me especially. He must know I'm a Really Useful Engine."

"More likely he wants you out of the way," grunted James.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Gordon looked across to James ...

They were making a plan

"James and I were just speaking about signals at the Junction, We can't be too careful about signals. But then I needn't say that to a Really Useful Engine like you, Percy."

Percy felt flattered.

"We had spoken of 'backing signals'," put in James. "They need extra special care you know. Would you like me to explain.

"No thank you, James," said Percy. "I know all about signals."

Percy was a little worried.

"I wonder what 'backing signals' are?" he thought. "Never kind, I'll manage."

He puffed crossly to his trucks, and felt better.

He came to a signal. "Bother! It's at 'danger'."

The signal moved to show 'line clear'. Its arm moved up instead of down. Percy had never seen that sort of signal before.

"Down means 'go' and up means 'stop', so 'upper still' must mean 'go back'. I know! It's one of those 'backing signals'."

"Come on, Percy," said his Driver, "off we go."

"Stop! You're going the wrong way."

"But it's a backing signal'," Percy protested and told him about Gordon and James. The Driver laughed, and explained.

"Oh dear!" said Percy, "let's start quickly before they see us."

He was too late. Gordon saw everything.

That night the big engines talked about signals. They thought the subject was funny. Percy thought they were being very silly!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 34

"Duck Takes Charge"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Do you know what?" asked Percy.

"What?" grunted Gordon.

"Do you know what?"

"Silly," said Gordon, "of course I don't know what, if you don't tell me what what is."

"The Fat Controller says that the work in the yard is too heavy for me. He's getting a bigger engine to help me."

"Rubbish," said James. "Any engine could do it. If you worked more and chattered less, this Yard would be a sweeter, a better, and a happier place."

Percy went off to fetch some coaches.

"That stupid old signal," he thought. He was remembering the timehe'd misunderstood a signal and gone backwards instead of forwards.

"No one listens to me now. They think I'm a silly little engine, and order me about."

I'll show them! I'll show them!" But he didn't know how. By the end of the afternoon he felt tired and unhappy.

He brought some coaches to the station.

"Hullo Percy!" said the Fat Controller, "you look tired."

"Yes Sir, I am, Sir - I don't know if I'm standing on my dome or my wheels."

"You look the right way up to me," laughed the Fat Controller. "Cheer up! The new engine is bigger than you, and can probably do the work alone. Would you like to help build my new Harbour?

Thomas and Toby will help."

"Oh yes, Sir, thank you, Sir."

The new engine arrived.

"What's your name?" asked the Fat Controller

"Montague Sir, but I'm usually called 'Duck'."

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"They say I waddle. I don't really, Sir, but I like 'Duck' better than Montague."

"Good. Duck it shall be. Here Percy, show Duck around."

The two engines went off together. Soon they were very busy.

James, Gordon and Henry watched Duck quietly doing his work.

"He seems a simple sort of engine."

"We'll have some fun and order him about."

"Quaa-aa-aak. Quaa-aa-aak. Wheeeeeeeeeze."

Smoke billowed everywhere.

Percy was cross but Duck took no notice.

"They'll get tired of it soon. Do they tell you to do things Percy?"

"Yes they do!" answered Percy.

"Right," said Duck, "we'll soon stop that nonsense."

He whispered something ...

"We'll do it later."

The Fat Controller was looking forward to hot buttered toast for tea at home.

Suddenly he heard an extraordinary noise - "Wheeeeeeeesh - snort."

"Bother!" he said and hurried to the Yard.

Duck and Percy calmly sat on the points outside the Shed, refusing to let the engines in. Gordon, James and Henry were furious.

"STOP THAT NOISE," bellowed the Fat Controller.

"They won't let us in," hissed Gordon.

"Duck, explain this behaviour!"

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Beg pardon, Sir, but I'm a Great Western Engine. We do our work without fuss. But begging your pardon, Sir, Percy and I would be glad if you would inform these - er - engines that we only take orders from you."

"SILENCE!" snapped the Fat Controller.

"Percy and Duck, I am pleased with your work today; but not with your behaviour tonight. You have caused a disturbance."

Gordon, Henry and James sniggered.

"As for you," thundered the Fat Controller, "you've been worse. You made the disturbance!"

"Duck is quite right. This is my Railway and I give the orders."

After Percy went away, Duck was left to manage alone.

He did so ... easily!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 35

"Percy and Harold"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Percy worked hard at the new Harbour. The workmen needed stone for their building. Toby helped, but sometimes the loads of stone were too heavy, and Percy had to fetch them for himself. Sometimes he'd see Thomas.

"Well done Percy, the Fat Controller is very pleased with us."

An airfield was close by, Percy heard the aeroplanes zooming overhead all day. The noisiest of all was a helicopter.

"Stupid thing!" said Percy, "why can't it go and buzz somewhere else?"

One day Percy stopped at the airfield.

"Hullo!" said Percy, "who are you?"

"I'm Harold," said the Helicopter, "who are you?"

"I'm Percy. What whirly great arms you've got."

"They're nice arms," said Harold, "I can hover like a bird. Don't you wish you could hover?"

"Certainly not - I like my rails, thank you."

"I think railways are slow," said Harold. "They're not much use and quite out of date."

He whirled his arms and buzzed away.

Percy found Toby at the Quarry.

"I say Toby - that Harold, that stuck up whirlibird thing, says I'm slow and out of date."

"Just let him wait, I'll show him."

He collected his trucks and started off, still fuming.

Soon they heard a familiar buzzing.

"Percy," whispered his Driver, "there's Harold. He's not far ahead. Let's race him."

"Yes, let's," said Percy.

Percy pounded along, the trucks screamed and swayed.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Well, I'll be a ding-dong-danged!" said the Driver.

There was Harold - the race was on.

"Go it Percy!" he yelled. "You're gaining."

Percy had never been allowed to run fast before; he was having the time of his life.

"Hurry! Hurry! Hurry! he panted to the trucks.

"We don't want to; we don't want to," they grumbled; it was no use, Percy was bucketing along with flying wheels, and Harold was high and alongside.

The Fireman shovelled for dear life.

"Well done, Percy," shouted the Driver, "we're gaining! We're going ahead! Oh good boy, good boy!"

A 'distant signal' warned them that the Harbour Wharf was near. "Peep, peep, peep, brakes, Guard, please." The Driver carefully checked the train's headlong speed.

They rolled under the main line, and halted on the Wharf.

"Oh dear!" groaned Percy, "I'm sure we've lost."

The Fireman scrambled to the cab roof.

"We've won! We've won!" he shouted.

Harold's still hovering. He's looking for a place to land!"

"Listen boys!" the Fireman called. "Here's a song for Percy.

Said Harold Helicopter to our Percy,
'You are slow!
Your Railway is out of date and not much
use you know.'
But Percy with his stone trucks, did
the trip in record time:
And we beat the Helicopter on Our Old
Branch Line"

Percy loved it.

"Oh thank you!" he said. He liked the last line best of all and was a very happy engine.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 36

"The Runaway"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Thomas the Tank Engine was ill. Workmen had tried to make him better, but it was no use.

"Edward must take you to the works," said the Fat Controller.

Thomas felt very miserable.

Then the Fat Controller spoke to Duck.

"I want you to help Percy and Toby while Thomas is away."

Duck was delighted. He already knew Percy and soon made friends with Toby and Bertie.

Terence the Tractor gave him a big welcome too.

"Take care of Thomas' coaches," he advised. "He's sure to miss them while he's away."

Duck was very gentle with the coaches.

Annie and Clarabel were impressed.

"Such nice manners," they told each other, "It really is a pleasure to go out with him."

When Thomas came back, Annie and Clarabel told him how well Duck had managed. Thomas was so pleased to be home that he soon forgot to be jealous.

The works had left Thomas' handbrake very stiff. It made his brakes seem as if they were hard on when, in fact, they were not.

As a result he and his coaches often over-ran the platform.

Thomas found this most embarrassing.

Gradually his Driver and Fireman learnt to be extra-careful.

But one day Thomas' Fireman was ill and a relief man took his place.

The fireman had fastened the coupling and joined the driver and stationmaster on the platform to wait for Henry's passengers.

The fireman had forgotten all about Thomas' handbrake.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Thomas simmered happily.

"Not long now," he thought as he saw Henry slowly approaching.

But Thomas' brakes were not hard on and suddenly he felt his wheels begin to move. He tried to stop, but he couldn't without his Driver and Fireman.

He tried to whistle a warning, but he couldn't do that either.

The Guard, Driver, Fireman and passengers were all stranded on the platform

"Stop! Stop!" shrieked Annie and Clarabel, but Thomas, with plenty of steam, kept on going

The alarm went down the line. "Stop the Runaway. There, ready for action, was Harold the Helicopter.

The Inspector had made a plan, and together they took off into the sky.

At last Thomas was tiring.

"I need to stop, I need to stop," he panted wearily.

As they neared the next station, Thomas saw Harold land. They entered the platform slowly enough for the Inspector to act.

Judging his moment, the Inspector scrambled into the cab and screwed the brake hard on.

At last Thomas stopped.

Both he and the Inspector were very relieved.

Then they thanked Harold.

"Think nothing of it," said Harold. "Glad to be of service - any time!"

"Whew!" remarked the Inspector, "we must never let this happen again Thomas."

Wearily Thomas agreed with him.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 37

"Percy Takes the Plunge"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

One day Henry wanted to rest, but Percy was talking to some engines.

He was telling them about the time he had braved bad weather to help Thomas.

"It was raining hard. Water swirled under my boiler I couldn't see where I was going; but I struggled on."

"Oooh Percy, you are brave."

"Well, it wasn't anything really. Water's nothing to an engine with determination."

"Tell us more Percy."

"What are you engines doing here," hissed Henry. "This Shed is for the Fat Controller's Engines; go away."

"Silly things, " Henry snorted.

"They're not silly." Percy had been enjoying himself

"They are silly, and so are you. 'Water's nothing to an engine with determination'. Huh!"

"Anyway," said cheeky Percy. "I'm not afraid of water. I like it."

He ran off to the harbour singing.

"Once an engine attached to a train was
afraid of a few drops of rain."

"No-one ever lets me forget the time I wouldn't come out of the tunnel in case the rain spoilt my paint," huffed Henry.

Thomas was looking at the board on the Quay.

DANGER

We mustn't go past it," he said. "That's Orders."

"Why?"

"'DANGER' means falling down something," said Thomas. "I went past 'DANGER' once, and fell down a mine."

"I can't see a mine," said Percy.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

He didn't know that the foundations of the Quay had sunk, the rails now sloped downward to the sea

"Stupid board!" said Percy.

He made a plan.

"One day," he whispered to the trucks, "will you give me a bump when we get to the Quay?"

The trucks had never been asked to bump an engine before. They giggled and chattered about it.

"Driver doesn't know my plan," chuckled Percy.

"On! On! On!" laughed the trucks. Percy thought they were helping.

"I'll pretend to stop at the station; but the trucks will push me past the board. Then I'll make them stop. I can do that whenever I like."

Every wise engine knows that you cannot trust trucks.

"Go on! Go on!" they yelled and bumped Percy's Driver and Fireman off the footplate.

"Ow!" said Percy sliding past the board.

Percy was frantic. "That's enough!"

Percy was sunk.

"You are a very disobedient engine."

Percy knew that voice.

"Please Sir, get me out, Sir, I'm truly sorry Sir."

"No Percy, we cannot do that till high tide. I hope it will teach you to obey orders."

"Yes Sir."

It was dark when the brought floating cranes to rescue Percy.

He was too cold and stiff to move by himself. Next day he was sent to the works on Henry's goods train.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Well! Well! Well!" chuckled Henry, "did you like the water?"

"No!"

"I am surprised. You need more determination Percy. 'Water's nothing to an engine with determination' you know. Perhaps you will like it better next time."

Percy is quite determined that there won't be a 'next time'!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 38

"Pop Goes the Diesel"

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NOTES

NARRATIVE

Duck is very proud of being Great Western. He talks endlessly about it. But he works hard too and makes everything go like clockwork.

It was a splendid day.

The trucks and coaches behaved well, the passengers even stopped grumbling!

But the engines didn't like having to bustle about. "There are two ways of doing things," Duck told them, "the Great Western way, or the wrong way. I'm Great Western and ...."

"Don't we know it," they groaned.

The engines were glad when a visitor came.

He purred smoothly towards them.

The Fat Controller introduced him.

"Here is Diesel. I have agreed to give him a trial.

He needs to learn. Please teach him, Duck."

"Good morning," purred Diesel in an oily voice, "pleased to meet you Duck. Is that James - and Henry - and Gordon too. I am delighted to meet such famous engines."

The silly engines were flattered. "He has very good manners," they murmured, "we are very pleased to have him in our Yard."

Duck had his doubts.

"Come on," he said

Diesel purred after him.

"Your worthy Fat ..."

"Sir Topham Hatt to you," ordered Duck.

Diesel looked hurt. "Your worthy Sir Topham Hatt thinks I need to learn. He is mistaken. We diesels don't need to learn. We know everything. We come to a Yard and improve it. We are revolutionary.

"Oh!" said Duck, "if you're revo-thingummy, perhaps you would collect my trucks while I fetch Gordon's coaches."

Diesel, delighted to show off, purred away.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

When Duck returned Diesel was trying to take some trucks from a siding. They were old and empty. They had not been touched for a long time.

Diesel found them hard to move.

Pull - Push - Backwards - Forwards. "Oheeeeeer! Oheeeeeeer!" the trucks groaned. "We can't! We won't!"

Duck watched with interest.

Diesel lost patience. "GrrRRRrrrRRR!" he roared, and gave a great heave. The trucks jerked forwar

"Oher! Oher!" they screamed. "We can't! We WON'T" Some of their brakes snapped and the gear jammed in the sleepers.

"GrrrRRRRrrrrRRRRrrrrRRRR!"

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" chuckled Duck.

Diesel recovered and tried to push the trucks back; but they wouldn't move. Duck ran quietly round to collect the other trucks. "Thank you for arranging these, Diesel, I must go now."

"Don't want you want this lot?"

"No thank you."

Diesel gulped. "And I've taken all this trouble. Why didn't you tell me?"

"You never asked me. Besides," said Duck "you were having such fun being re-whatever-it-was-you-said. Goodbye."

"GrrrRRRrrrRRR!"

Diesel had to help the workmen clear the mess. He hated it. All the trucks were laughing and singing at him.

"Trucks are waiting in the Yard; tackling them with ease'll
'Show the world what I can do,' gaily boasts the Diesel.
In and out he creeps about, like a big black weasel
When he pulls the wrong trucks out - Pop Goes the Diesel!

"Grrr!" growled Diesel and scuttled away to sulk in the shed.

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series

by

The Rev W Awdry

Episode 39

"Dirty Work"

© BRITT ALLCROFT LIMITED 1986

NOTES

NARRATIVE

Diesel the new engine was sulking. The trucks would not stop singing rudely at him. Duck was horrified. "Shut up!" he ordered, and bumped them hard. "I'm sorry our trucks were rude to you, Diesel."

Diesel was still furious. "It's all your fault. You made them laugh at me."

"Nonsense," said Henry, "Duck would never do that. We engines have our differences; but we never talk about them to the trucks. That would be des - des ..."

"Disgraceful!" said Gordon

"Disgusting!" put in James.

"Despicable!" finished Henry.

Diesel hated Duck. He wanted him to be sent away so he made a plan. He was going to tell lies about Duck.

Next day he spoke to the trucks. "I see you like jokes. You made a good joke about me yesterday. I laughed and laughed. Duck told me one about Gordon. I'll whisper it ... don't tell Gordon I told you," and he sniggered away.

"Haw! Haw! Haw!" guffawed the trucks.

"Gordon will be cross with Duck when he knows. Let's tell him and pay Duck out for bumping us."

They laughed rudely at the engines as they went by.

Soon Gordon, Henry and James found out why.

"Disgraceful!" said Gordon.

"Disgusting!" said James.

"Despicable!" said Henry. "We cannot allow it."

They consulted together. "Yes," they said, "he did it to us. We'll do it to him, and see how he likes it."

Duck was tired out. The trucks had been cheeky and troublesome.

He wanted a rest in the Shed.

The three engines barred his way. "Hooooooooosh! KEEP OUT!"

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"Stop fooling," said Duck, "I'm tired."

"So are we," hissed the engines. "We are tired of you. We like Diesel. We don't like you. You tell tales about us to the trucks."

"I don't."

"You do."

"I don't."

"You do."

The Fat Controller came to stop the noise.

"Duck called me a 'galloping sausage'," spluttered Gordon.

".... rusty red scrap iron," hissed James.

".... I'm 'old square wheels', fumed Henry.

"Well Duck?"

Duck considered, "I only wish Sir," he said gravely "that I'd thought of those names myself. If the dome fits ..."

"He made trucks laugh at us," accused the engines.

The Fat Controller recovered.

He'd been trying not to laugh himself.

"Did you Duck?"

"Certainly not, Sir. No steam engine would be as mean as that."

Diesel lurked up.

"Now Diesel, you heard what Duck said."

"I can't understand it, Sir. To think that Duck of all engines ... I'm dreadfully grieved Sir, but know nothing."

"I see," said the Fat Controller. Diesel squirmed and hoped he didn't.

NOTES

NARRATIVE

"I'm sorry, Duck, but you must go to Edward's station for a while. I know he will be glad to see you."

"As you wish, Sir."

Duck trundled sadly away, while Diesel smirked with triumph.